



USAID | MACEDONIA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 June 2011

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Promotes Transparent and Efficient Judiciary

After four years, the USAID Judicial Reform Implementation Project (JRIP), a \$6.2 million project, has completed its activities aimed at assisting Macedonia's judiciary in improving its efficiency, openness, and performance.

"Judicial reforms are critical for Macedonia's economic and democratic development, but also ensure that the citizens of this country have access to timely and impartial justice," stated USAID Mission Director Robert Wuertz. "Macedonia has taken important steps in recent years to adopt the legal framework required for an efficient and independent judiciary. Full implementation of the judicial reforms is still underway and we encourage you to stay the course in completing them."

JRIP key results include:

- Deployment of an automated court case management system in all 33 Macedonian courts, training of 2,300 system users, and provision of 560 computers and other technology infrastructure upgrades;
- Installation of a system for audio recording of court trials in 80 courtrooms;
- Reduction of backlogged cases older than three years by 64% in the courts of Bitola appellate region;
- Establishment of a reliable system for enforcement of civil court decisions that reduced the average time for enforcement from 340 to 60 days;
- Development of the first Court Staff Ethics Code and Court Staff Training Curriculum.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, improve access to justice and reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.